

Comparing Section Property Calculators*

Updated February 2010



Category	Feature	IES ShapeBuilder	RISA Section	Digital Canal General Properties	Daystar Section Maker	Bentley Sectionwizard
Properties	Basic Geometric Properties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Polar Properties	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Principal Properties	Yes	No	No	Yes	?
	PNA Location	Yes	No	No	Yes	?
	Shear Center Location	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Warping Constant	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Torsion Constant	Yes	Summation	No	Summation	?
	Transformed (Composite)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Cracked Concrete Properties	Yes	No	Some	No	?
	Part Properties	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shape Types	Rectangular Parametric Shapes	12	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Rolled Parametric Shapes	7	No	No	Some	?
	Bent Parametric Shapes	6	No	No	Yes	?
	Round Parametric Shapes	5	6	Yes	Yes	?
	Custom Pipe/Pie Angles	Yes	No	Yes	No	?
	Reinforced Concrete Wizards	7	No	No	No	No
	US and Metric Rebar Shapes	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Create Holes	Any Shape	Awkward	Yes	?	Yes
	Embedded Shapes (rebar)	Yes	Awkward?	No	Yes	?
	Databases	Works with IES Database	Yes	No	No	No
Export to VisualAnalysis		Yes	No	No	No	?
AISC Steel Database		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?
Cold-Formed Database		Yes	No	?	No	?
NDS Wood Database		Yes	No	?	No	?
Foreign Databases		4+	No	?	No	12+
Customizable Databases		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	?
Named Materials		Yes	No	?	Yes	?
File Formats	Import/Export DXF	Yes	No	Export Only	Import	Yes
	Import/Export STEP/IGES	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Import/Export Text (Excel)	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Export Graphics	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	?
	Import CFS Shapes	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Import Outline Coordinates	Yes	No	?	Yes (text)	?
	Import Centerline Coordinates	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Import Shape Libraries	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
Advanced	Stress Analysis	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Effective Shape	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Reinforced Concrete	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Stress/Strain Concrete	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Concrete Interaction	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Warping Normal Plot	Yes	No	No	No	?
	Shear Flow (VQ/I)	Yes	No	No	No	?

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User Interface	Undo/Redo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?
	Exact Shape Locations	Yes	No (Guess by dragging)	?	Yes	?
	Adjust Parametric Dimensions	Yes	Separate Window	?	No (?)	?
	Instant Properties	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?
	Merge/Intersect/Holes	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Mirror/Flip	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?
	Generate Rectangular/Polar	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Copy & Paste	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	?
	Dimensioning	Optional	Automated	No	Automated (limited)	?
	Snap-to Corners	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Snap to Side-Points	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Lock Shape Positions	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Link Shapes Together (move)	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Align to Centroid	Yes	?	?	Yes	?
	Overlap Checking	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Clean UI Layout	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Standard Menu (Microsoft UI)	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Toolbar Tips	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	3D View of Extrusion	No	Yes	?	No	?
	Reporting	Professional & Beautiful?	Yes	?	?	?
One Page Report		Yes	No	Yes	?	?
Report Options		Yes	Yes	?	?	?
Print Preview Report		Yes	Yes	?	?	?
Business	Price	\$490	?	\$295	?	?
	Easy Updates/Reinstall	Yes	?	?	?	?
	Fully-Functional Trial	Yes	No	5 days	No	?
	Installs in Proper Location	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Tutorials	8	2	?	No	?
	Demo Videos	Yes	No	?	No	?
	View prices on Web	Yes	Difficult!	Yes	Distributor	?
	Multi-User Discounts	Yes	?	?	?	?
Download Size	20 MB	11 MB	65MB	26.7 MB	?	
Customize	Property Notation	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Parametric Shape Sizes	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Colors	Yes	No	?	Yes	?
	Annotate Report	Yes	No	?	No	?
	Custom Dimensions on Shape	Yes	No	?	No	?

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